

Monday, July 6, 2009

Deb Ranum, Chairperson; Donald Rieger, Member and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder met for a regular Monday session. Vacancy not filled as of this time.

Sheila Keller, Action for Eastern Montana brought in the preliminary aging services contracts to be signed. Sheila explained this is different because there are two sets of contracts, due to the one time money Counties will be receiving. Sheila stated they attached the one time only money to the Senior Centers as that is where the most money is spent and they are hoping to have it spent in three months. Commissioner Ranum asked if some of their services overlap into other states. Sheila stated we do not usually transfer our services across State line, because, they are just that, limited services. Commissioner Ranum wondered if some of the services are secretive. Sheila stated Carla Brown, Council on Aging Director states all of the services provided in her newsletters she puts out. Sheila stated these contracts are also preliminary because the budgets are not approved. Sheila stated they brought the congregate meals down from 7500 to 6500 which is still over the amount of units that will be served. The total expenditures budgeted for the program will be \$206,885.

Dale Butori, Weed Supervisor met to discuss the lake. Dale stated he felt they got a good kill on the weeds. Search and Rescue went out on Wednesday during training and cleaned the solar panels. Dale stated you can see the bottom everywhere on the lake although there is a blanket of weeds on the entire surface of the lake. There is only a portion of the lake where the weeds have not reached the surface and that is over by Iron Horse. There are reports the fishing is good also.

CLOSED-HIPAA

Bob Wiedmer, Road Foreman met to present his weekly road report. Bob stated this week they will be blading roads. The Bridge crew is cleaning car gates. Road crew members are mulching on the Pine Creek Road. Bob stated Dan Buerkle has a lot of scoria on his property. They still plan to look at the Don Fried and Rick Stark property; they found nothing on the Larry Steffes property. Bob purchased some mesh last week while he was in Billings; the grass will grow through the mess and will also hold the culverts in place. Bob spoke to Brosz Engineering regarding the bridge on Bridge Road and he stated he would be in this week to visit with the Commissioner's. The Commission reviewed Bob's evaluation with him.

Noon Recess

Rich Batterman, County Attorney met to discuss County business.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

The Commission signed Resolution 7-6-2009 calling for a public road abandonment hearing and that resolution is filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

CDBG (Community Development Block Grant Program) PUBLIC HEARING-2:00 PM:

Chuck Lee, 911/DES Coordinator wrote this grant on behalf of the Fallon County Commission. The Montana Department of Commerce will administer the Disaster Recovery funds through the Community Development Division, CDBG Program, which will work to deliver the funds to the four eligible Montana counties: Carter, Custer, Fallon and Powder River. The purpose of the Disaster Recovery funds is to address the results of a severe winter storm which occurred on May 1-2, 2008, a presidentially-declared disaster which resulted in significant damage throughout four eligible counties. The CDBG disaster funding will help to address much of the damage recovery needs, in addition to restoration of public services in this rural area of Montana. Fallon County applied for \$114,000.00 in which to purchase a rotary snow plow and a bobcat, both to make sure that we can deal with a storm of this magnitude again. We need to make sure we have equipment that will deal with the snow and ice volumes that were faced. We also need to be able to communicate with the providers of these snow and ice removal

services. The thought is the rotary plow will make access to remote rural sites not only possible, but also would have improved response times tremendously. The Bobcat would be used for the Fallon Medical Complex to allow maintenance staff the ability to complete the snow removal problem quickly and to help ensure that access to Medical facilities will be greatly improved.

With no one in attendance of the public hearing the Commission will allow further public comment for the next seven days. All public comment will be documented and the application will be submitted according to the time constraints necessary to fulfill our obligations.

Randy Wolenetz phoned the Commission and stated he would be attending the road hearing tonight.

The Commission reviewed and approved the finalized salary schedule for FY2010 and it is filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

The Commission adopted Resolution 7-6-09 (1) whereby the Fallon County Commission adopts by resolution fixing the salaries for the elected officers of Fallon County. That resolution is filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

The Commission reviewed and approved the June, 2009 payroll and withholdings in the amount of \$453,752.71 and they are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Commissioner Ranum was excused due to a family emergency.

Tom Muckle, Stevenson Funeral Homes met to discuss indigent burials for the County. Commissioner Rieger stated he could agree to change the amount but nothing will be final until the budgets are set and all Commissioners' approve.

Tom Muckle also met to discuss the Veteran's Memorial. Tom stated Drury Phebus wrote a letter to Stevenson's, with a picture of a drawing of what he wanted. Tom stated they quoted him from the picture he had given them. Drury later came in with another bid from Glendive with a totally different drawing. Jon Stevenson, Stevenson Funeral Homes had planned to donate the benches for the Memorial. Tom stated Stevenson's quoted Drury gray granite and Glendive quoted black granite; Tom stated black granite is much more costly. Tom stated they felt it was unfair that everyone was not quoting the same drawing. Commissioner Rieger stated the Commission will try to get Drury in and visit with him about his approach regarding this matter.

Recess until the Road Abandonment Hearing

**FALLON COUNTY ROAD ABANDONMENT HEARING
FALLON COUNTY COURTROOM-7:00 PM**

ATTENDEE'S: Donald Rieger, Commissioner; Spencer Huether, Road Technician; Tim J. Barkley, Sheriff; Bobby Wiedmer, Road Foreman; Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder; Randy Wolenetz, Public.

ROADS: Petition #1919 (20)-Road #64; Petition #1923 (3)-Road #92; Petition #60-Road #138; Petitioned Road #170.

No roads listed above were abandoned and therefore no Resolutions to abandon were signed as of this time.

Hearing was adjourned at 7:10 PM
s/Donald Rieger, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:
s/Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Reconvened at 10:15 AM with Donald Rieger, Member and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder present. Commissioner Ranum excused, due to a family emergency.

Commissioner Rieger signed and reviewed the balance of June, 2009 Accounts Payable. The total for the month was \$624,581.92 and they are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Noon Recess

Lisa Mitchell, Ambulance Director met to update the Commission on various items of business. Commissioner Rieger stated she could present her business but if there were decisions to be made they could not be made until Commissioner Ranum was allowed to vote. Lisa stated they still have an issue with the way the County/State vehicles are parked. Commissioner Rieger asked Lisa to explain how they interfere with the Ambulance. Lisa stated it is very difficult to pull in and back to park. They have to sort of weave in and around to park. Commissioner Rieger stated they would discuss this when Commissioner Ranum returned.

The ENCORE Ambulance is back and is running well now. They found a short behind the inverter box. The Ford Garage in Miles City found the issue and repaired it. Commissioner Rieger wondered if they were still looking for an ambulance to replace the van. Lisa stated Steve Schweigert and Mike Carl, Ambulance Crew have been looking for one. They would like a 2-wheel drive; something for in town, fast runs and transfers. They could then get rid of the old van.

Ambulance Garage-Commissioner Rieger stated someone had looked at the Ambulance garage and they felt the exhaust from the furnace was coming back in to the building. Lisa stated it is not that, it is definitely water damage in the building. Lisa feels the water blew in under the ridge cap. Commissioner Rieger went with Lisa to view the building. When they returned Commissioner Rieger also felt it was water damage.

Backup cameras-Lisa stated the back-up cameras were installed and they feel they are not quite as good as what they thought they would be. The screen is blurred while backing and a few other issues have come up with them also.

Pay scale-The pay scale for the Ambulance crew was discussed.

Equipment-Lisa stated they would like to replace the blood pressure cuffs and machines.

Nicole Brown, Justice of Peace reported on the college she attended in Nevada. Nicole stated it was very good and would like to plan on this once a year and focus on just one subject. Nicole stated the Judicial College will contract to the state to do trainings, she feels she will suggest it. Commissioner Rieger asked if she had any problems with her case load while she was gone. Nicole stated she had a couple of things that came up that had to be handled by another JP.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

Vera Abrams, Safety Supervisor met to present her safety report.

Clayton Hornung, Mayor-City of Baker met for his monthly report. The agreement between the City/County and Nicole Brown, City Judge/Justice of Peace was discussed.

Aerators-Clayton stated the City plans to purchase 4 aerators for the lagoon; (3) blue frogs and (1) green frog. The City found them to be less costly in comparison to the County's aerators and feel they will have the same results.

Recreation Director-Clayton stated they have had a couple of applicants so far. The Recreation Department and Board are wondering about hiring a co-director to assist the director. This will be discussed further. Clayton stated the board will get together this week, as Friday is when the in house applications are due.

Interlocal agreement for the discharged water from the lagoon for the golf course was also discussed.

New Container Site-Ken Griffith, G & G Garbage was phoned regarding the container sites. They need to finish placing the material in the new area and fencing the area and then they will be ready to open the new site.

Existing Container Site-Discussed the additional day. Ken reported, some Sunday's are kind of busy and some are not. Ken stated Baker Metal is providing a metal container for the sites at no cost to the City or County.

Bridge-Discussed the bridge by the City Shop that needs repaired.

NBWS grant-Commissioner Rieger stated they are meeting on the 16th to hear the grant for the NBWS District. Ken stated they are ready to bid it as one project but if this grant falls through they will have to bid what they can.

Ken asked if Griffith Excavating could get some of the County's gravel out of the Johnson Pit that would pass specifications for use at the fire hall. The gravel they received did not pass specifications for the fire hall. Ken would replace the County's gravel with some of their gravel. Commissioner Rieger asked how much they would need. Ken stated 2500-3000 yards. Commissioner Rieger asked where they would be using the gravel. Ken stated it would be placed under the concrete, for the sidewalks at the fire hall. Commissioner Rieger will clear it with Commissioner Ranum and Bob Wiedmer, Road Foreman.

Rich Batterman, County Attorney met to discuss the need for a Republican Central Committee to start the process of selecting names for replacement of Commissioner Afrank. Rich stated he would phone the State Republican Central Committee and see what we can do to get this process completed.

Commissioner Rieger explained Tim Barkley, Sheriff feels Ed and Darlene Williams will come in and sign the road easements.

Recess

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Reconvened at 10:15 AM with Donald Rieger, Member and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder present. Commissioner Ranum will not be in as her father, Clyde Crawford passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with Commissioner Ranum, Family and Friends during this time.

Mona Madler, SMART and Drury Phebus met to discuss the Veteran Memorial. Commissioner Rieger asked what they felt the dollar figure would be for the completed Memorial. Drury felt \$70,000 would be plenty. Commissioner Rieger asked if everyone received the same drawing of the Veteran Memorial. Drury stated the quotes were not comparable quotes and he brought a picture and told them to submit their own designs. Drury stated he felt from that they would choose the design they liked the most. Commissioner Rieger stated you then will need to take it back to each one of them after the design is chosen and get a new quote from each of them. Mona explained they have a total of \$53,200, so far. They plan to have the Memorial complete this year, December 7th, which is Pearl Harbor Day. Drury explained he still does not have all of the names ready. Mona stated she would help research the names further and try to get this together. Mona also explained to Drury if this project is not complete by December 31, 2009, the caviar grant will not be received. Mona also explained the PPL grant is due July 31st.

Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman stated the MT DOT plans to bore under the road for the drainage that will be going to the lake.

New shop-the gas service line will come from the Phebus property across the road. Electric Service-will be pulled off the area where the hot oil tanks are located.

Bob Wiedmer, Road Foreman went to look at the gravel Ken Griffith wants to trade the County from the Johnson Pit.

Noon Recess

Reconvened at 1:15 PM with Commissioner Rieger, Member and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder present.

Bud Anderson, TransCanada met to discuss the pipeline that will be coming through Fallon County in 2011. Bud stated the MT Department of State plans to have their EIS (Environmental Impact Study) out in September and also plan to have another public meeting. Bud stated the DEQ wants them to look at alternate routes; that only affects the Indian Reservations. TransCanada will be the sole owner of this pipeline; Conoco

Phillips pulled out as it was not feasible for them to pursue anymore. Bud stated Houston and Calgary are the two main offices for TransCanada. Commissioner Rieger asked when the construction would start. Bud stated June 2011 – December 2012 is when the construction will start and will be laid in legs.

Commissioner Rieger stated the Commission was informed of the RV Park. Bud stated yes this would be a wonderful asset to Fallon County and TransCanada plans to pay to build it all. There will now only be one Compressor Station in Fallon County. The pipe will be buried 48 feet and is 36” pipe. The Bison Pipeline is also going through.

Terry Vanderpan, Jim Edwards and Steve Rogers met to present their HSA (Health Savings Account) plan. Jim explained there is no risk and the employee is limited on what they can put in, based on Federal Regulations. The group discussed wellness plan, eye exams, dental benefits and long term disability. They left information for the Commission to review and if they are interested they could come back and present it to the full body of the Commission and the Insurance Committee to see if they wish to proceed further.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

Recess

Thursday, July 9, 2009

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

Jim Wosepka, County Auditor met to discuss the audit of FY08 Annual Report. Jim has almost completed that audit and stated he will for sure have to write the Clerk and Recorder up for not getting the annual report in on time but everything else seems status quo. Jim stated they will need to be sure to include the oil and gas revenue impact to the County in the next annual report.

Noon Recess

Max Hunsaker, State Republican Central Committee stated they are in charge of getting a County Republican Central Committee set up when an active committee is not in place. That Committee will then abide by the laws written when an elected official’s vacancy occurs. Max stated he will bring his boss, Will Deschamps, Head of the State Republican Central Committee to Baker to meet at the Baker Senior Center. They hope to place one man and one woman per precinct to be precinct committee people. Commissioner Rieger asked if Max had a list of the Republicans in Fallon County. Max stated he has a list of those who have supported the Republican’s in the past and he will fax that list to the Commission.

Bob Wiedmer, Road Foreman stated he spoke to Don Hinman, City Works Director regarding patching the holes in the Baker Senior Center parking lot. Don stated he could patch the holes after the City oils the parking lot. Nate, Top Notch Coating will reseal again after the holes are patched; the holes are now full of water and it will not work well to patch when it is wet, as it will not stay in the hole.

Nicole Brown, Justice of Peace/Community Service Supervisor asked permission to purchase 3 tee shirts for the Community Service Director. Nicole felt it would appear more professional. Commissioner Rieger granted permission to purchase 3 tee shirts.

Adjourned.
s/Deb Ranum, Chairperson
Portion of July 6

s/Donald Rieger, Member
Portion of July 6
July 7-July 9, 2009

ATTEST:
s/Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder